

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 02968 221125Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 PER-05 OPR-02 M-02 A-01 DRC-01

SAJ-01 /145 W

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R 221055Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8964

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2968

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PINS, PFOR, NP, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED TRAVEL CONTROL IN WESTERN NEPAL: DISARMING
OF KHAMPAS

REF: STATE 156826

1. HOME MINISTER ANNOUNCED IN PANCHAYAT SESSION JULY 21 THAT KHAMPAS HAVE STARTED SURRENDERING ARMS, WEAPONS AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT IN THEIR POSSESSION. ACCORDING TO HOME MINISTER, 2,967 KHAMPAS HAVE SO FAR RECEIVED IDENTITY CARDS AND HANDED OVER SOME WEAPONS AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT TO GON. HE ADDED THAT KHAMPAS WERE "PREPARING TO SURRENDER REMAINING ARMS AND EQUIPMENT". HOME MINISTER REPEATED THAT KHAMPAS HAVE BEEN GIVEN ULTIMATUM BY GON TO SURRENDER ALL ARMS AND EQUIPMENT BY JULY 26.

2. IN VIEW OF SITUATION INVOLVING KHAMPAS, HOME MINISTER SAID THAT ENTIRE "NORTHERN REGION" HAD BEEN DECLARED RESTRICTED ZONE AND THAT ENTRY OF FOREIGNERS TO THIS ZONE WAS PROHIBITED. WHILE AREAS COVERED BY HOME MINISTER'S STATEMENT WERE NOT SPECIFIED, EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 02968 221125Z

HAS BEEN TOLD BY HOME MINISTRY THAT RESTRICTED AREAS ARE MUSTAND,

DOLPA AND MANANG DISTRICTS IN WEST AND TAPLEJUNG DISTRICT IN EAST.

3. COMMENT: AS TOTAL NUMBER OF TIBETAN REFUGEES IN NEPAL PROBABLY NUMBERS NO MORE THAN 8,000, WITH NUMBER OF KHAMPAS PROBABLY RANGING FROM 800 TO 1500, HOME MINISTER'S STATEMENT REGARDING NUMBER OF KHAMPAS COOPERATING WITH GOVERNMENT APPEARS GREATLY EXAGGERATED. WE ASSUME STATEMENT APPLIES TO NUMBER OF TIBETAN REFUGEES IN NORTHERN AREAS, MANY OF WHOM ARE NOT KHAMPAS, WHO HAVE ACCEPTED IDENTITY CARDS. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY, INCLUDING SOME REPORTS FROM AFFECTED AREAS, INDICATES THAT THERE HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN ANY SIGNIFICANT EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN KHAMPAS AND NEPALESE ARMY UNITS. ARMY IS REPORTED TO HAVE APPROXIMATELY 1500 TROOPS IN AREA AND TO HAVE SET UP BLOCKS IN GHANDAKI VALLEY NORTH OF JOMOSOM AND AT THONJE TO CLOSE OFF EXIT OF KHAMPAS.

CARGO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, DISARMAMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, CIVIL DISORDERS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KATHMA02968
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740197-0259
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740729/aaaaaytx.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 156826
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED TRAVEL CONTROL IN WESTERN NEPAL: DISARMING OF KHAMPAS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, NP, IN, KHAMPAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005